

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02497 011503Z

65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 072885

R 011132Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3623
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2497

EXDIS

KINSHASA, LUSAKA FOR AMBASSADORS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PDEV, PARM, AO, NI, CU, UR, US

SUBJ: MEETING WITH MPLA; SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AFRICA

1. IF SECRETARY SHOULD WISH INITIATE DIALOGUE WITH MPLA LEADERS DURING HIS UPCOMING AFRICAN TRIP, WE ARE CONFIDENT A MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED IN LAGOS BY NIGERIAN HOSTS. WHILE OUR PERSPECTIVE FROM LAGOS OBVIOUSLY LIMITED, WE SEE BOTH SHORT AND LONG TERM DIVIDENDS IN NORMALIZING US DEALINGS WITH ANGOLA INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEVERAGE ON MPLA TO DISPENSE WITH CUBAN TROOPS.

2. FMG COULD BE EXPECTED WISH MAKE MOST OF ITS INTERMEDIARY ROLE, BUT WE SEE THIS AS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. FOR ONE THING, PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH A MEETING HERE WOULD MATERIALLY SAP CURRENT XENOPHOBIC TREND OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT, SINCE PROXIMATE CAUSE OF RECENT OUTBREAK OF NIGERIAN ANIMUS AGAINST US IS FMG RESENTMENT OF US POLICY AND TACTICS ON ANGOLA. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE FMG WOULD BE IN THE LEAST RELUCTANT TO DEVOTE PART OF SECRETARY'S SHORT STAY IN LAGOS TO THIS EXTRA-NIGERIAN PURPOSE.

3. IF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO LAGOS PRECEDES HIS VISITS TO KINSHASA AND LUSAKA, CONVERSATION HERE WITH NETO, NASCIMENTO AND/OR DOS SANTOS MIGHT PROVIDE USEFUL WARM-UP FOR SECRETARY'S FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSIONS WITH MOBUTU AND KAUNDA. IF SUCH MEETING WERE TO TAKE
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PLACE, CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO INFORMING MOBUTU AND KAUNDA

IN ADVANCE.

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Message Attributes

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